

K-312

1884

Rectory of St. Dennis Church

Galena

Private

The 2-1/2 storey main section of the brick rectory of St. Dennis Roman Catholic Church is sited with its main, south facade facing the town, not the road. The rectory was built in 1884 with bricks from the parish's first church, built in 1855-56 near Lambson Station. The main facade is three bays wide on each level, with the middle, main-entry bay a projecting pavilion carried up through the third level. However, while using a facade that called for symmetry, the planners of this building nevertheless built it asymmetrically. The pavilion is noticeably off-center to the west, evidently to provide more space on the interior to one room (the east parlor) rather than the other (the west dining room). The style is Victorian Gothic Revival that in its execution bears some resemblance to the house at Hickory Ridge Farm (K-639), whose owner-builder, Samuel Jackson Johnson, was a parishioner at the time of the building of the rectory. The side-bay windows of the first and second storeys of the facade are double, the first-storey ones with shallow, segmental arches. On the facade roof slope there is a large, gable-roofed dormer in each side bay. The rear (north) roof slope has a larger dormer more akin to a central gable, though it is built like a dormer. The pavilion has a gable-roofed canopy on the first storey, a single window on the second, and its third level treated like the nearby dormers. At the west end a lower two-storey brick kitchen wing was built at the same time as the main section, and a contemporary brick one-story office wing with gable roof is perpendicular to the main section at the rear. There is now a hyphen connecting the rectory with the 1934 stone church to the north. The rectory is both like other Kent County vernacular Victorian Gothic Revival houses of its period and unlike them. The 1880s were the years of the height of the style in Kent County, and numerous large buildings were built in it. The facade would have looked generally familiar to upper-county residents with its three-bay, central entry arrangement, steep gable roof, and gable-roofed dormers. However, local buildings in this style were frame, not brick, and the pavilion is not seen elsewhere in the upper county. There is a house with a pavilion in the county appearing to date from the same period, but it is in

Quaker Neck (the Atkinson Farm, K-455). The paired windows were also unusual.

At the time, the size and the apparent grandeur of the rectory also caused comment within Catholic circles, where some considered it scandalous that such a building should be built to house only one priest. According to Thomas Becker, the Bishop of Wilmington at the time, the rectory was a "palatial residence," and he considered the cost "alarming." It was sometimes referred to as "Bradford's Folly," for George S. Bradford who was the first priest in charge of the Kent County missions and who took up residence in the rectory after it was completed. It is said to be the first rectory built with a separate office space intended for office use.

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. K-312

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Located on the west side of Main Street near the northern edge of Galena, the 2-1/2 storey main section of the brick rectory of St. Dennis Roman Catholic Church is sited with its main, south facade facing the town, not the road. The rectory was built in 1884 with bricks from the parish's first church, built in 1855-56 near Lambson Station. The main facade is three bays wide on each level, with the middle, main-entry bay a projecting pavilion carried up through the third level. However, while using a facade that called for symmetry, the planners of this building nevertheless built it asymmetrically. The pavilion is noticeable off-center to the west, evidently to provide more space on the interior to one room (the east parlor) rather than the other (the west dining room). The style is Victorian Gothic Revival that in its execution bears some resemblance to the house at Hickory Ridge Farm (K-639), whose owner-builder, Samuel Jackson Johnson, was a parishioner at the time of the building of the rectory. There may be a connection. The side-bay windows of the first and second storeys of the facade are double, the first-storey ones with shallow, segmental arches. On the facade roof slope there is a large, gable-roofed dormer in each side bay. The rear (north) roof slope has a larger dormer more akin to a central gable, though it is built like a dormer. The pavilion has a gable-roofed canopy on the first storey a single window on the second, and its third level treated like the nearby dormers. At the west end a lower two-storey brick kitchen wing was built at the same time as the main section, and a contemporary brick one-story office wing with gable roof is perpendicular to the main section at the rear. There is now a hyphen connecting the rectory with the 1934 stone church to the north.

8. Significance

Survey No. K-312

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning.	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1884

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The rectory is both like other Kent County vernacular Victorian Gothic Revival houses of its period and unlike them. The 1880s were the years of the height of the style in Kent County, and numerous large buildings were built in it. The facade would have looked generally familiar to upper-county residents with its three-bay, central entry arrangement, steep gable roof, and gable-roofed dormers. However, local buildings in this style were frame, not brick, and the pavilion is not seen elsewhere in the upper county. There is a house with a pavilion in the county appearing to date from the same period, but it is in Quaker Neck (the Atkinson Farm, K-455). The paired windows were also unusual. At the time, the size and the apparent grandeur of the rectory also caused comment within Catholic circles, where some considered it scandalous that such a building should be built to house only one priest. It supposedly was larger than even the bishop's house. According to Thomas Becker, the Bishop of Wilmington at the time, the rectory was a "palatial residence," and he considered the cost "alarming." It was sometimes referred to as "Bradford's Folly," for George S. Bradford who was the first priest in charge of the Kent County missions and who took up residence in the rectory after it was completed. It is said to be the first rectory built with a separate office space intended for office use. The total cost was \$4,560 for dismantling the old church, building the rectory, digging a well, building a stable, and providing a chicken house and fencing, plus a few improvements to the old frame church. It was quite an undertaking for a relatively newly established parish in a county where there were not many Catholics, though it should be remembered that the parish's staunchest supporters were prominent farmers, who generally were made wealthy during this period by bumper peach (and other fruit) crops. It was a period of conspicuous consumption in Kent County.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. K-312

Edward Carley et al History of St. Dennis', Galena, Maryland, 1855 - 1970
Published on the occasion of St. Dennis' School of Religion, 1970

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Margaret Q. Fallaw, Survey Consultant		
organization	County Commissioners of Kent County	date	August 16, 1985
	Historical Society of Kent County		
	Court House		778-4600
street & number	Cross Street	telephone	778-3499
city or town	Chestertown	state	Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

The end wing for the kitchen was one bay wide in the rear (north) with double window with arch on the first storey and a single window above. The second storey was used to house a cook-housekeeper. Originally the wing seems to have had a porch on its south side, but now there is a rather nondescript brick, two-storey, two-bay wing in its place, with a very shallow shed roof from the kitchen roof. The kitchen wing's rear wall was flush with the main section's wall in the rear, but the wing was shallower and hence set back from the main section in the front. The two-storey kitchen addition filled this space and more, protruding beyond the main-section facade.

The circulation plan of the main section is a T. There is a central passage with stair, but it leads to a long, rather narrow hall along the north side of the first storey with access at its west end to the dining room, at its east end to an exterior door that has now become the main entry, to the parlor en route, and to the rear office wing. The stair is what some would call "backwards" in relation to the original main entry, being entered at the rear of the stair hall rather than the front near the door. The original main entry, functionally rather poorly located, has been closed and a powder room installed in it on the first storey. The main entrance is now through the door into the east end, in the north bay, through a one-storey enclosed porch with a shallow gable roof that spans the east end. This enclosed porch seems to have replaced an earlier, open porch.

The walls of the original sections are laid in common 1-to-7 bond with quite wide joints. The brick is dark, somewhat mottled, and appears handmolded. Reportedly, one reason for dismantling the old brick church at Lambson Station (other than preferring to be in Galena, a population center) was that the brick of the 35' x 50' church proved unsatisfactory within a very short time after its building in 1855-56. The church, in fact, had been built unusually quickly, within six months. Within ten years the bricks had been judged to have been built of inferior local clay that was supposedly not the best for the purpose. One commentator said that the bishop felt that the church "on Mr. Dennis McCauley's estate, should be taken down and a new dry one built near Galena, which seems to be the best place. The old church (still not yet thirteen years old) could scarcely be repaired and made fit for anything. The people admit this unanimously." However, the cleaned and re-used bricks have served well at the rectory for over 100 years, appearing to be in good condition. They may have been made at a brickyard shown on the 1877 atlas map of Kent County as Moses Lambson's brickyard, very close to the location of the Dennis McCauley farm where the first church was built on a corner of the property. The later additions (to the kitchen and enclosed porch) use the same brick bond as the original building (1-7 common), but are built with mid-twentieth-century common red brick.

There now are three chimneys of the probable original four. They are placed without regard to symmetry but where wanted. Logically, the kitchen wing would have had a chimney for cooking, unless a stove was vented into the dining room chimney in the main section, in the adjacent wall. This chimney is located within the wall within the west gable end of the main section. It is quite thin above the roof. It is of dark-red brick (perhaps not

(continued)

the same as the main-wall brick, or else it is weathered differently) and has a corbelled cap, out and in. It seems to be covered by a masonry cap, evidently to keep out birds and debris because it has been closed for use. A second chimney exits through the ridge and rises through the parlor's west wall, adjacent to the stair hall. It heated the parlor. Its construction is the same as the west chimney. The third chimney is on the north side of the main section, to heat the office wing. It is lower and placed to be inconspicuous. It partially protrudes from the main bloc, running up the north side of the rear central gable/dormer's east pilaster. The gable's window was moved off-center to the west to accommodate the chimney. This chimney has the same details as the others and also is thin. It is closed for use below, in the office.

There is a cellar under part of the building, under only the stair hall and the kitchen. Port Deposit granite is used for the walls but not above ground level. Only brick shows on the exterior. The twentieth-century additions appear, at least partially, to have concrete block foundations, with crawl spaces.

The roofs of the original building are now covered with large, interlocking, vari-colored asphalt shingles that are also used in the main-section gable ends and the face of the central gable and pavilion dormer. Most likely the original material in these locations was wood shingles. The pavilion is brick only to the general cornice level, to the below-eave frieze. The church is planning remodeling to remove this asphalt material and to reshingle with wood shingles.

The main entry in present use is in the east gable end, in the north bay, within the enclosed end porch. Head and jambs with chamfered edges (stopped) indicate that there probably was a transom at this entry. The door is a replacement (two lights over two pairs of panels), and the architrave molding is covered by the porch wall material of sheet paneling. The porch is used now as a chapel. The jambs themselves are enriched with heavy central reeding and outside fillets.

The original main entry on the south facade has its transom and door opening closed with plywood. The emphasis here is on the tall and narrow, befitting the Gothic Revival style. The transom is tall (c. 33" at center, including the bar) and round-headed and c. 39" wide, with a round-headed brick arch. The transom soffit and jambs are not visible but are perhaps treated with the same motif as on the interior, with fillets on each side of bold central reeding. The outside edges of both transom and door jambs are chamfered. There is a large (7" tall) stone sill of perhaps unpolished marble. Concrete steps and integral small stoop are in place, protruding beyond the width of the brick pavilion. There is an applied gable-roofed canopy with steep pitch over the door. It is supported by large (31" tall x 21" deep), bold, simply-sawn built-up brackets with pyramidal cap applied to the front end of the upper leg. There is an ornamental bargeboard with rounded ends that partially closes in the tympanum of the gable. There is an applied sunburst/peacock feather fan? with heavy horizontal piece below. The

(continued)

vergeboards have spaced bullseyes in pairs between pairs of applied half-round molding strips.

Other entries are into the south kitchen wing (utility room, with access to kitchen) and on the west side of the office wing. Here there is a heavy wooden lintel as at the cellar windows. The door is a replacement, like the one at the present porch main entry. There are concrete steps and a small stoop in place. The jamb edges are also chamfered here, and the same reeded detail is on the jamb faces and head soffit.

The stair rises from the rear of the building to the front. It is dogleg and open-string. There are two painted balusters per tread; they are turned and with fluted octagonal center sections. The rail is continuous to the end of the run on the third storey. The rail is broad and simply molded. The newel is a bold Victorian catalogue newel with octagonal base that has most faces with recessed and molded panels. There are turned sections and an octagonal shaft with faces paneled. The treads appear to be pine grained to appear as oak.

Windows were originally double-hung with 2-over-2 lights; some have been replaced with new sash with 8-over-8 lights.

ADVANCE ORDER

1503127509 K-312

FOR THE

HISTORY OF ST. DENNIS' PARISH

GALENA, MARYLAND

1855 - 1970

SIZE 8½ x 11 - 80 PAGES - 84 PICTURES - DELUXE EDITION

READY IN MAY - ONLY ONE PRINTING

PRICE - TEN DOLLARS

PROCEEDS TO ST. DENNIS' CATECHETICAL CENTER

C O N T E N T S

DEDICATION - FOREWORD - PARISH MAP
BIOGRAPHY OF ST. DENIS
8 POPES & 9 BISHOPS
NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL SCENE IN 1855
PREAMBLE TO HISTORY OF ST. DENNIS' - 1524 TO 1855
HOW THE PARISH BEGAN - THE DENNIS McCAULEY STORY
CORNERSTONE LAYING AND DEDICATION - FATHER FOLEY
PEOPLE AND STYLES OF THE EARLY DAYS
BIOGRAPHIES OF THE 16 PASTORS
JOSIAH JOSEPH HENRY - A LIVING SAINT
RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS FROM THE PARISH
ST. DENNIS' PARISH TODAY
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS - BIBLIOGRAPHY - FRIENDS

Send order to: ST. DENNIS CHURCH - GALENA, MD. 21635

Your Name _____

Address _____

No. of Copies _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

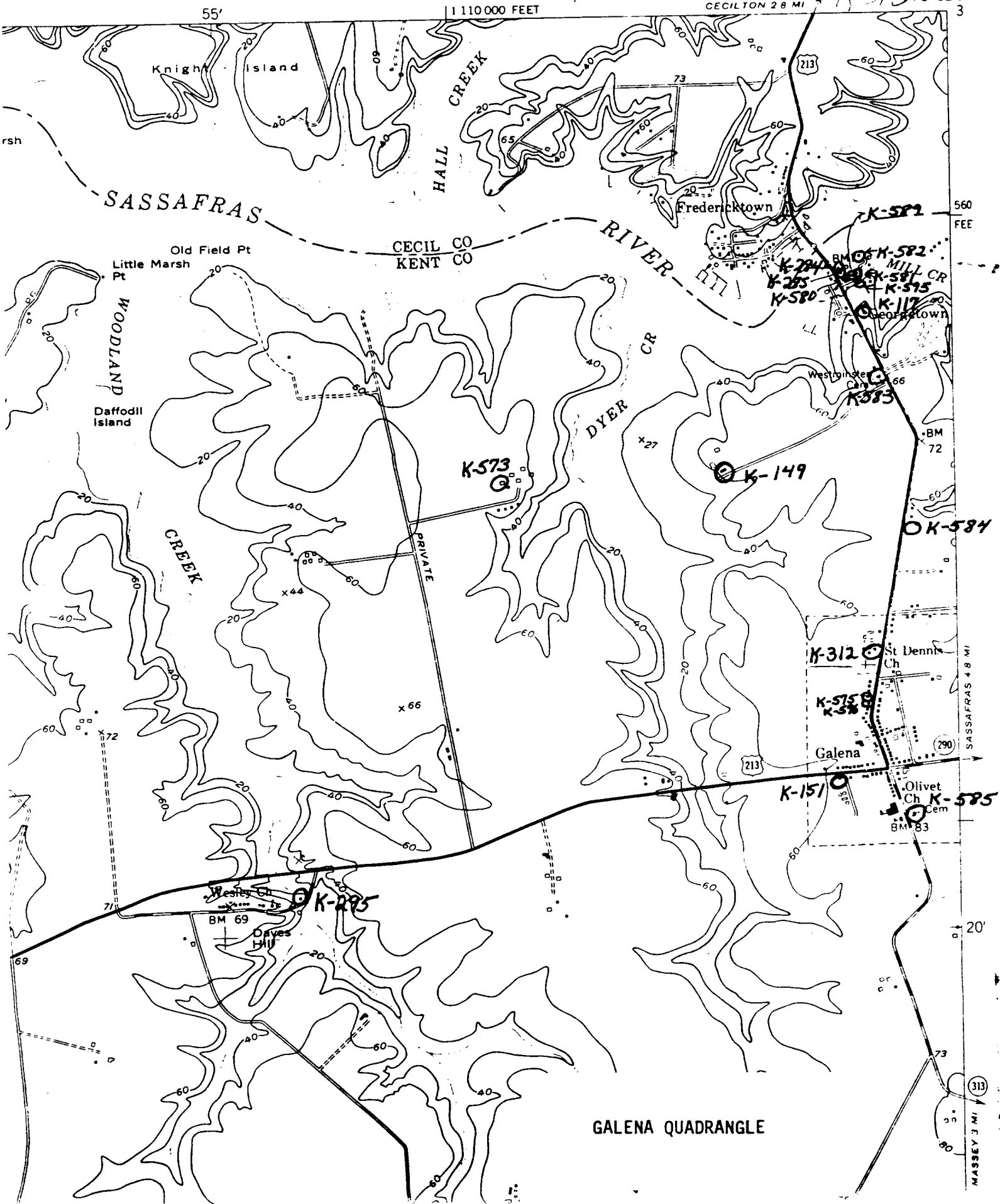
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

SW/4 CECILTON 15' QUADRANGLE

ELKTON 18 MI
CECILTON 28 MI

K-312 75°52'3"

3



GALENA QUADRANGLE

MASSEY 4.8 MI



1212-10

K-312

Rectory of St. Dennis R. C. Church

Main Street, Galena

M. Q. Fallaw - 8/16/85

View to east



K-312

Rectory of St. Dennis R. C. Church

Main Street, Galena

M. Q. Fallaw - 8/22/86

View to west

K-312-11